AGENCY CONTACT MEMORANDUM #2011-0703

To: Agency CIOs, Technical Contacts

From: Steve Rucker, Commissioner
            Commonwealth Office of Technology

Date: July 15, 2011

Subject: Active Directory Upgrade

The Commonwealth Office of Technology is pleased to announce our plan for upgrading the Commonwealth's directory services infrastructure to Active Directory Domain Services 2008.

This upgrade provides feature enhancements that simplify the management of a growing number of users, roles, and devices. Additionally, this upgrade provides advanced security features and more granular auditing capabilities that will increase the security posture of the Commonwealth.

The upgrade plan also includes a hardware refresh that will replace the aging equipment that currently supports our directory services infrastructure. We expect to reduce our server hardware footprint from its current state of more than 150 servers to approximately 100 servers throughout the Commonwealth. This will be achieved through virtualization of some servers as well as a reduction of unnecessary servers. We also plan to include a redundant domain controller for each domain at an alternate data center on the CAN/MAN network, giving our customers business continuity for directory services in the event that the Commonwealth Data Center is inaccessible.

Our Active Directory Services Team is working with consultants from Microsoft and an internal project manager to formalize our design and upgrade plan. We expect this project to begin during the first part of October 2011, with a project timeline of approximately 3 to 6 months.

Our project manager will be reaching out to the various agency contacts in the near future to discuss upgrade plans. During these discussions, we would like to identify any application dependencies that your agency may have in regards to Active Directory. Your agency's participation in these discussions will be a key to the success of this project.

Anyone with questions or concerns should contact the Commonwealth Service Desk (commonwealthservicedesk@ky.gov) or by phone at (502) 564-7576. Thanks in advance for your cooperation and participation in this project as we move forward with this technology.